

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite that L₂ in formula (A₁) represents a single bond or a methylene group, rather than a single bond or a bivalent connecting group. This amendment is supported by the specification, for example, at page 35, lines 3-4 from the bottom, and page 45, lines 8-9. Claim 1 has also been amended to delete formula (VI).

Claims 1, 4 and 9-13 have been amended to improve their form. These amendments are not to be deemed to narrow the scope of the claims.

Claim 15 has been added. Claim 15 is supported by original claim 1 and by the specification, for example, at page 12, lines 1-4 from the bottom, and the working examples.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-15 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. IDS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to return a signed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement on June 3, 2005, subsequent to the issuance of the present Office Action, with the next PTO communication.

II. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Action, claims 1-7 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamada et al, "Design and Study of Resist Materials for 157 nm Lithography", Proceedings of SPIE-The International Society for Optical Engineering, vol. 5039, February 2003, pages 569-579 ("the Yamada et al article"). Further, in Paragraph No.

5 of the Action, claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Yamada et al article in view of Aoai et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,013,411). Still further, in Paragraph No. 6 of the Action, claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Yamada et al article in view of Kodama et al (US 2001/0041300 A1).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are novel and patentable over the cited references. As described above, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that L_2 in formula (A_1) represents a single bond or a methylene group, and to delete Formula (VI). None of the cited references disclose or suggest a resin which falls within the scope of the present claims. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 15 is novel and patentable over the cited references for the reason above and also for the reason that none of the cited references disclose or suggest a resin further comprising a repeating unit represented by formula (VI).

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/796,083

Attorney Docket Q79878

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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